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LA/CATF
INCOMING

FRP: .2, .4, . . .

IMMEDIATE

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ACTION: NONE INFO: DONOVA, ODPD-D, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OGI/FSI/PI,
OGITNATAB2, OPCTR/EALA, PRINT, RF, SOV/RIG/DC, SOV/TW/RPL, FILE,
LA/CATF-3, LA/SS-2, ALA/MC/D, ALA/MC/E1, ALA/MC/N-2, ALA/MC/PME-2,
ALA/MC/RAE, ALA/PO/LA, CPAS/CDP, CR/L, CRES/ARO, EPO/LA, ICS/HC/LA,
NCECF, NCPM, NIO/DL/AL, NIO/LA, OGI/GD/AWH, OOE/EI/PS, PPS/ALBC,
PPS/PR-2, PPS/SEO-3, (31/W)

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BT

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir
☒ Release () Excise () Deny ☒ Declassify
Date 2/22/02 Exemption _____

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PINS, PREL, NU

SUBJECT: UNIFIED NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION

1. THE UNIFIED NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION (UNO), AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMED RESISTANCE, WAS ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1985 WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING COHERENT DIRECTION TO THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN NICARAGUA. ONE OF UNO'S FIRST PRIORITIES WAS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL PROGRAM WHICH ALL DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS IN NICARAGUA COULD SUPPORT. IT IS OPEN TO AND ENCOURAGES RESISTANCE GROUPS NOW OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY TO JOIN WITH THOSE ALREADY REPRESENTED IN UNO. IN SUPPORT OF THIS GOAL, UNO WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL CHANNEL FOR THE 27 MILLION DOLLARS APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE.

2. THIS ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD FOR THE DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE EFFORT, AND A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR ITS DEMOCRATIC GOALS IN THE U.S., LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE. A KEY ELEMENT IN GAINING THAT SUPPORT WILL BE FAMILIARIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERS WITH THE UNO ORGANIZATION, ITS GOALS, ITS POLICY, AND ITS LEADERS.

3. POSTS SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO DISCUSS UNO AND ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR ITS DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PROGRAM. IN MAKING DEMARCHE, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIFIED NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION (UNO) REPRESENTS A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE EVOLUTION OF NICARAGUA'S DEMOCRATIC ARMED RESISTANCE;

-- UNO IS GUIDED BY A TWELVE-MAN COUNCIL UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ARTURO CRUZ, ALFONSO ROBELO, AND ADOLFO CALERO, MEN WHOSE COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND WHOSE ROLE IN THE ANTI-SOMOZA STRUGGLE AND DEDICATION TO THE ORIGINAL PLURALISTIC OBJECTIVES OF THE 1979 REVOLUTION ARE WELL-KNOWN;

-- ARTURO CRUZ BEFORE 1979 WAS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF 12, AN ORGANIZATION OF BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

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OPPOSED TO SOMOZA, AND SUPPORTED THE INSURGENTS. AFTER THE REVOLUTION, HE SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF NICARAGUA'S CENTRAL BANK, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING JUNTA, AND AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. IN DECEMBER 1981 CRUZ BROKE WITH THE SANDINISTAS IN OPPOSITION TO THE FSLN'S "DOGMATISM AND ADVENTURISM" AND THE FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE REVOLUTION'S DEMOCRATIC IDEALS;

-- ROBELO, A LEADING SPOKESMAN FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (ARDE), ORGANIZED BUSINESS STRIKES AGAINST THE SOMOZA REGIME IN THE MID-1970'S. WAS A MEMBER OF THE BROAD OPPOSITION FRONT (FAO) DURING THE REVOLUTION, AND SERVED BRIEFLY ON THE ORIGINAL GOVERNING JUNTA THAT REPLACED SOMOZA. HE RESIGNED THAT POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO THE MARXIST-LENINIST POLICIES OF THE SANDINISTAS;

-- ADOLFO CALERO, FORMER LEADER OF NICARAGUA'S CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WAS AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF THE SOMOZA REGIME AND LATER BECAME A MEMBER OF THE FAO. HE WAS IMPRISONED IN 1978 FOR HIS ROLE IN ORGANIZING A GENERAL STRIKE. FOLLOWING THE SANDINISTA RISE TO POWER, CALERO SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE REGIME'S DEVIATION FROM THE ORIGINAL DEMOCRATIC GOALS OF THE REVOLUTION, AND CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HE LEFT NICARAGUA IN 1982;

-- IN THE JUNE 12 ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNO'S ESTABLISHMENT, ITS GOALS WERE STATED AS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION BASED ON AMNESTY AND TOTAL PARDON FOR POLITICAL AND RELATED CRIMES

APPLICABLE TO ALL NICARAGUANS WITHOUT EXCEPTION; AND DEVELOPMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM;

-- UNO SUPPORTS CHURCH-MEDIATED TALKS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO TRUE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS;

-- UNO PROPOSES A SYSTEM IN WHICH PEASANTS, WORKERS, PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS ARE EQUAL PARTNERS IN NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION;

-- ONE OF UNO'S IMMEDIATE GOALS IS TO UNIFY THE FRAGMENTED OPPOSITION INTO A COHERENT ORGANIZATION; TALKS ARE UNDERWAY TO BRING THE ATLANTIC COAST INDIAN AND CREOLE RESISTANCE GROUPS INTO ITS RANKS;

-- THE BASIC GOALS OF UNO ARE CLEAR: DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO ALL NICARAGUANS;

- THESE GOALS REFLECT A SYSTEM OF SHARED VALUES WITH WESTERN DEMOCRACY AND DESERVE THE ENERGETIC SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD;

-- WE URGE YOU TO RECEIVE UNO LEADERS WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS DIRECTLY AND OFFER YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR A FREE NICARAGUA. SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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